



ICEMA

INLAND COUNTIES EMERGENCY MEDICAL AGENCY

SERVING INYO, MONO, AND SAN BERNARDINO COUNTIES

Winter 2009

Quarterly Newsletter

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Medical Director Update

Reza Vaezazizi, M.D.

Odansetron Trial study update:

As most of you know, ICEMA, along with Santa Barbara and Coastal Valley EMS Agencies, participated in a trial study using Odansetron (Zofran) to treat undifferentiated nausea and vomiting in prehospital patients. We recently completed and submitted an interim report on the status of this study to the California EMS Commission. The report highlighted our ability to enroll a large number of patients (total of 2500 patients with 1500 from ICEMA alone) as well as the safety and effectiveness of Odansetron in treatment of pre-hospital nausea and vomiting. Furthermore, the report recommended making Odansetron available to all ALS providers in California by approving it as an optional scope medication and terminating the study. At its September 23, 2009, meeting, the EMS Commission reviewed this report and recommended approval of Odansetron for use by California ALS providers. Dr. Tharratt, Medical Director of the California EMS Authority, accepted this recommendation and approved the use of Odansetron effective immediately. In the coming months, I will work closely with ICEMA's Medical Advisory Committee (MAC) to review and update our protocols incorporation of Odansetron as we expand its use to all ALS providers. The use of Odansetron will become mandatory effective March 1, 2010, for all ICEMA ALS providers.



STEMI program update:

The STEMI program is celebrating its first birthday. During the first year of operation, ICEMA successfully designated four (4) STEMI Centers in San Bernardino County, as well as an additional center in neighboring Los Angeles county.

During the past year, the STEMI system of care has performed an average of 15,000 ECG's per month, transported an average of sixty (60) STEMI patients per month, while maintaining an average EMS to balloon (E2B) time of less than one hundred and twenty (120) minutes with a door to balloon (D2B) time of less than ninety (90) minutes. The false positive rate of activating cath lab teams has been less than fifteen (15) percent. Through continued monitoring and education, we hope to decrease our (E2B) time to less than ninety (90) minutes and improve our false positive rate to less than five (5) percent. One of the enhancements that ICEMA recently initiated is the standardization of the transfer process for STEMI patients who walk in to non-STEMI facilities without accessing the 911 system. Current national data suggest that nearly two-thirds (2/3) of all STEMI patients do not access 911 and simply walk in to the nearest ED, often a non-STEMI facility, at the time of their myocardial infarction. This standardized transfer process is meant to improve access to the STEMI centers for all patients

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("Medical Director Update."..... continued from previous page)

by means of a rapid interfacility transfer from any STEMI referral facilities (SRF) to a nearby STEMI receiving center (SRC). ICEMA will continue to work collaboratively with all of you as we build on our success during the past year and continue to improve our STEMI system to meet and exceed all of our target goals in the coming year.

H1N1 Vaccination Program:

ICEMA recently applied and received approval to include vaccination for H1N1 and seasonal flu as an optional scope of practice for EMT-P's. This authorization, which will expire July 1, 2010, allows accredited paramedics within the ICEMA region to perform vaccinations of their qualified health care worker colleagues within their own departments and employment agencies. Qualified health care workers are defined as those EMS workers who have direct patient care responsibilities in the course of their day to day job function. Vaccination of general public and other EMS provider employees are not included in this authorization. Any vaccination program that may involve the use of paramedics as vaccinators will be under direct authority and direction of local health departments, and the health officers in San Bernardino, Inyo, and Mono Counties, Dr. Ohikhuare and Dr. Johnson. Paramedic participation in any local vaccination campaign will require a direct request to ICEMA and ICEMA approval for initiation of such participation.

Due to current vaccine shortage, it is unclear whether paramedics will ever be asked to participate in any local vaccination campaign. However, EMS providers and paramedics are advised to be prepared for such an eventuality. California EMS Authority has prepared a brief training program for paramedics in California, which may be accessed at http://www.emsa.ca.gov/about/H1N1/Public_Safety.asp.

As mentioned earlier, the biggest challenge facing the local public health departments is the shortage of vaccine itself and not a shortage of able and qualified vaccinators. Although ICEMA accredited personnel participation in this season's vaccination campaign remains uncertain at the time of this writing, EMS will be prepared to assist our public health colleagues if and when the need arises. ❄



Hospital Preparedness Program **PROGRAM UPDATE**

By: Jerry Nevarez, R.N., M.S.N

The Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP) grant is a federally funded program managed through the California Department of Public Health. ICEMA has participated in the grant for eight years and assumed administrative oversight of the grant for San Bernardino County in 2007. The HPP grant provides hospitals with equipment and supplies to be used in the event of a disaster. Additionally, the funding provides hospitals with training in "Hazardous Materials Training for First Responders" and "Hospital Incident Command Systems". The training and equipment is being used by several of the hospital emergency rooms in San Bernardino County to manage overcrowding and enhance surge capacity during the H1N1. Additional supplies that have been purchased with these funds include cots, surge tents and decontamination units, much of which was used during the 2003 fires in San Bernardino County.

Although Inyo and Mono apply for funding separately ICEMA, San Bernardino, Inyo and Mono counties work together to support disaster preparations for all prehospital care and hospitals. ❄

AGENCIES DEMONSTRATE TEAMWORK

Ontario Fire Department ME 138 was dispatched to a man down at Ontario International Airport on July 28th, 2009.

This call was an outstanding example of how pre-hospital medicine, with multiple responders working together, makes a difference in the outcome of a true medical emergency.

A 64 year old man was attempting to board a plane bound for Portland Oregon when he suddenly collapsed. In the busy terminal was an off duty nurse, Jenifer Nicole Jaime, who recognized the emergency and obtained the wall mounted AED. Ontario Airport Fire received the AED alarm when the cabinet was opened and responded. Upon fire's arrival, they found the AED pads applied by Mrs. Jaime with bystander CPR in progress. Airport Fire used the AED -

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*("Agencies Demonstrate Teamwork".....
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to assess the patient and delivered 2 shocks prior to the arrival of Ontario City Fire paramedics. The patient was unresponsive with spontaneous respirations and a weak carotid pulse. CPR was stopped, the patient was intubated and an IV was established. The patient went from ST to VT with pulses that quickly switched to VF. The patient was shocked which caused the rhythm to convert into asystole and CPR was resumed. The patient returned to a wide complex tachycardia with a weak pulse and Lidocaine was administered IVP. The patient was loaded onto a backboard and restrained due to his agitation. Chem check = 65 mg/dl. 25 Grams of D50 administered. Patient remained extremely agitated with reactive pupils while enroute to San Antonio Community Hospital. Patient was attempting to remove ET tube and IV. Re-contact was made with SACH and a request for Versed was made to allow crew to facilitate patient care, while providing for patient safety.

The patient arrived SACH ER with equal and reactive pupils, movement of all extremities, a pulse of 76 and a corresponding blood pressure of 138/78. The cardiologist was able to communicate with the patient by verbalizing questions and having the patient blink his eyes for response.

SACH is a designated STEMI hospital and was able to quickly get the patient into the CATH lab. The patient has an 80% blockage of the (L) collateral and a 100% blockage of the (R). Numerous shunts were placed with success. The following morning, he was responding well and extubated. Two (2) days later the patient was discharged and cleared to fly home to Oregon with his family.

This call progressed from a witnessed sudden cardiac arrest in a public environment with CPR trained bystanders (off duty nurse & unknown male) using an AED, to a BLS fire department (AED trained) continuing care while shocking twice, followed by an ALS fire department providing advanced interventions and medications, and transported in an ALS ambulance to a STEMI receiving facility.

That's 5 different agencies/organizations all working together as 1 team to successfully resuscitate an adult male who was clinically dead.

The following personal were involved with this incident:

1st arriving (off duty nurse)

Jenifer Nicole Jaime, RN

Ontario Airport Fire Department (BLS)

Captain Michael L. Allomong	Fire
ASO Jim Mateer	Fire
ASO Michael Desouza	Fire
ASO Greg Gladson	Police Duty
ASO Ryan Clark	Police K-9
ASO Robert Fortenberry	Police K-9
ASO Alex Castanon	Police Duty

Ontario City Fire Department (ALS)

Captain Andres
Engineer Zinda
Firefighter Ayon
Firefighter Horner

AMR

Dan Jones
Jesse Vargas

San Antonio

Dr. Matthew Potts ❄️

Outstanding Recognitions

RUNNING SPRINGS GETS NEW FIRE CHIEF!

From the ICEMA Staff

GCEMA is pleased to congratulate Chief Tony Grabow for his promotion from Deputy Chief to the Fire Chief of Running Springs Fire Department. Chief Grabow officially took over August 14th from retiring Chief Bill Smith. Tony started at Running Springs Fire Department 23 years ago as a paid call firefighter. He worked his way through the ranks with dedication and hard work. Tony was the EMS Paramedic Coordinator for many years where he stressed the importance of quality medical care for the community. While he is turning the EMS Coordinator position over to Cindy Strebel, Tony says that he will still participate as much as possible in the EMS community since it is in his blood.

Congratulations Tony we look forward to your strength and leadership in the Fire and EMS community! ❄️

BEAR VALLEY COMMUNITY HOSPITAL RANKED ONE OF THE BEST!

Bear Valley Community Hospital was ranked one of the best in the State based on a Consumer Reports survey, according to a recent news article in the Big Bear Grizzly. The chief executive officer, Vi Colunga is quoted as saying she was shocked, but not surprised the hospital ranked so high. She credited the entire staff from the housekeeping staff to the doctors. Hospital ranks are based on patient surveys taken within 48 hours of discharge, and the patient must have spent at least one night in the hospital to be eligible. Bear Valley Community Hospital ranked above 80% in almost all areas surveyed, reaching the 95% mark in many cases. The survey consists of questions about communication with doctors and nurses, pain control, cleanliness and quietness of patient rooms, new medication, discharge information, overall rating of their experience and whether patient would recommend the hospital. ❄



SAN BERNARDINO CITY SELECTS EMS COORDINATOR AS EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR



The City of San Bernardino has recognized Bernie Horak, EMS Coordinator, for his exceptional achievements and service.

Bernie manages the very challenging EMS program for the Fire Department and its over 25,000 annual calls for EMS service.

Over the last year Bernie has accomplished two very important projects that have long term advantages for the City of San Bernar-

dino and its emergency medical program.

Bernie developed an agreement with Dr. Debbie Bervel to provide professional medical advice to the Fire Department paramedic program. The agreement with Dr. Bervel is the first of its kind in the City and represents a program that offers a significant reduction in liability to the City while providing up to date advice and training to the responders. Dr. Bervel is the point of contact for the acquisition of controlled drugs that medics use on a daily basis without which would bring EMS service to a halt.

Bernie also implemented the EMS MISS Project and coordinated the distribution and training of fire crews on the "Tough Book" computers. This field reporting computer system moves the City into the age of electronic reporting of EMS calls for service. The move into this program fulfills a State mandate that providers report all EMS data electronically and also allows crews to input the data more quickly, many times, while still at the scene.

Through Bernie's hard work and dedication the EMS program in the San Bernardino City Fire Department continues to move forward while fulfilling its responsibility to the citizens of San Bernardino.

Congratulations, Bernie! ❄

Trauma

AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS VERIFICATION PROCESS FOR TRAUMA CENTER.....

CONGRATULATIONS ARMC!

By: Jennifer Dearman, R.N.

In July of this year, ARMC invited the American College of Surgeons (ACS) for a voluntary trauma survey which resulted in the hospital successfully being verified as a Level II Trauma Center.

ICEMA would like to take this opportunity to recognize and congratulate the multi-disciplinary trauma team for their hard work and dedication to improving the care of trauma patients in San Bernardino County

The American College of Surgeons (ACS) was founded in 1913 to raise the standard in surgical edu-

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("American College of Surgeons Verification Process for Trauma Center, Congratulations ARMC"..... continued from previous page)

cation and practice. The Committee on Trauma (COT) is one of the sub-committees of the ACS. This committee has a mandate to improve the care of injured patients and to promote injury prevention initiatives. The COT promotes multidisciplinary collaboration and leadership across the continuum of trauma care at trauma centers. One of the programs that the COT uses to meet their mandate is the Consultation/Verification Program. This was established in 1987 to encourage the development of trauma centers. Hospitals can request a consultation visit in which a survey team will identify areas for improvement in order for the hospital to meet verification criteria in a future verification survey. The verification process is a voluntary, rigorous on-site review of the hospital by a team of expert surveyors who use the *Resources for Optimal care of the Injured Patient* manual as a guideline. Once it is determined that the facility has met all the criteria established for a particular level of trauma center, the verification is granted.

Although the ACS verifies that the hospital has met certain criteria, it does not actually "designate" the hospital's trauma center status. Trauma center designation is the responsibility of the local EMS authority (ICEMA). ❀



teer of the Year award. Mr. Huffman became interested in serving as a volunteer firefighter as a young boy who would accompany his father,

who was also a volunteer with the Bishop Volunteer Fire Dept. and has continued to serve since 1957. In 2000, Mr. Huffman was promoted to part-time assistant fire chief and continues to serve in that capacity.

Lloyd Wilson, Fire Chief, Big Pine Volunteer Fire Department, was recognized as an EMS Provider of the Year. Chief Wilson joined the fire department in 1973, and was one of the first local volunteers to be certified as an EMT – certification number 272. He has functioned in many roles from firefighter to CPR instructor and received the Inyo Register's Citizen of the Year Award in 1994 and Unsung Heroes Award in 2008, as well as the Big Pine Fire Department's Firefighter of the Year Award in 2001.



B. J. Hayner was also recognized as an EMS Provider of the Year. One of the first local volunteers to be certified as an EMT – certification number 48 – Ms. Hayner is possibly



ably the longest serving EMS volunteer in the county. She joined the Lone Pine Volunteer Fire Department in 1979 and has continued her education through a variety of workshops and classes.

ICEMA joins Supervisor Marty Fortney in extending congratulations and appreciation for the dedication and personal commitment of each of these talented individuals and the other EMS providers who provide consistent quality care to the citizens and travelers within the ICEMA region. ❀



INYO COUNTY RECOGNIZES SOME OF IT'S BEST

Lloyd Wilson, Larry Huffman and B.J. Hayner were recognized by the Inyo County Board of Supervisors for their dedication to EMS and service to their respective communities. The Inyo County EMCC developed the recognition program this year in order to publicly recognize EMS volunteers within the county.

Larry Huffman was recognized as the 2009 Volun-

ICEMA HAPPENINGS

Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, Chapter 4 divides local EMS agency responsibilities into eight (8) basic components. Throughout the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2009-2010, ICEMA has been working diligently to meet each of these responsibilities. Here are a few of the things ICEMA has been doing:



COMPONENT 1 - SYSTEM ORGANIZATION AND MAINTENANCE

1. The ICEMA budget currently allows for 26 employees. ICEMA continues to recruit for two vacant EMS Nurse Specialist positions.
2. Executive Director attended EMSAAC meeting, California EMS Commission meeting, and several legislative meetings.
3. Executive Director continues the liaison with Emergency Medical Care Committees (EMCC), local governments, area legislators.
4. Agency staff attended five (5) EMCC meetings in three counties to ensure input from regional constituents pertaining to local issues, state regulations, proposed legislation, data elements, proposed protocols and policies.
5. ICEMA continues to develop and maintain existing contracts with regional providers and member counties.
6. EMS Nurse Specialists attended San Bernardino County EMS Nurses Network and EMS Officers meetings on monthly basis.
7. Agency staff and Medical Director continue to monitor EMT-I Wilderness Trial Study.
8. Agency staff began extensive preparations for EMT 2010 changes including contact with Office of Administrative Hearings and Department of Justice for FBI background check information.
9. Agency staff and Medical Director monitored region-wide participation in Zofran Trial Study.
10. Agency staff is currently negotiating with several providers for Mutual Aid Agreements.
11. Executive Director continues to meet with San Bernardino County Fire Chiefs on a monthly basis.
12. Fifteen (15) existing protocols were reviewed and updated by the Protocol and Education Committee and approved by the EMCC's in all three counties. Implementation expected in January.

COMPONENT 2 - STAFFING AND TRAINING

1. Agency staff and providers developed educational curricula for system-wide annual review classes,
2. Agency staff conducted training for all ALS providers for Annual Review Class (ARC) curriculum train-the-trainer courses
3. Agency staff conducted EMT-P Expanded Scope Skills and Orientation train-the-trainer courses.

COMPONENT 3- COMMUNICATIONS

1. No additional ambulance dispatch centers were approved during this period.
2. Agency staff continues to monitor the San Bernardino City Fire/AMR EMD program.
3. Executive Director continues to meet regularly with communication center regarding implementation of new data system and system issues.

COMPONENT 4 - TRANSPORTATION

1. Executive Director serves as co-chair with San Bernardino County Department of Behavioral Health to address 5150 transport issues. Other members of the committee include law enforcement, hospitals, transport providers, psychiatric facilities and Hospital Association.
2. ICEMA began development of Air Ambulance Exclusive Operating Area (EOA) Plan.
3. Executive Director and staff met with ground EOA providers on a regular basis to discuss response times and EOA issues.
4. All ALS transport vehicles were inspected in Mono County.
5. All EMS transport vehicles were inspected in Inyo County.

COMPONENT 5 - ASSESSMENT OF HOSPITALS AND CRITICAL CARE CENTERS

1. No hospital closure impact reports were required.
2. Executive Director or staff participated in regular meetings with the Hospital Association of Southern California (HASC) and constituents.
3. ICEMA disbursed a combined \$382,664 to Arrowhead Regional Medical Center and Loma Linda University Medical Center, which are ICEMA designated trauma hospitals, late in last fiscal year. This funding was collected through implementation of Senate Bill 1773 in San Bernardino County. Staff continued to monitor the grant requirements.
4. Agency staff continues to participate in the

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Trauma System Advisory Committee (TSAC) and a joint Trauma Advisory Committee with Riverside County.

COMPONENT 6 - DATA COLLECTION AND EVALUATION

1. Agency staff participated in monthly meetings of five (5) local QI committees and bi-monthly QI committees in Mono and Inyo Counties.
2. Agency staff attended Quality Improvement seminar in Sacramento.
3. Agency staff conducted review of current QI plan and drafted new plan to meet Local EMS Agency/EMSA outline. Regional QI committee began committee review process in October.
4. Agency staff reviewed prehospital care reports including Automated External Defibrillators (AED) reports.
5. Agency staff conducted two (2) quality assurance/improvement investigations.
6. Agency staff reviewed 425 reported situational/unusual incidents processed by ICEMA.
7. ICEMA established a STEMI Quality Improvement Committee comprised of public and private transport providers, emergency room staff and cardiac specialists to review cases, transport issues and system enhancements.
8. Agency staff continues to monitor ambulance wall time and bed delay.
9. ICEMA continues to increase region wide participation in the Management Information and Surveillance System (MISS) and electronic patient care record implementation. Seventeen (17) providers now participate region-wide. Agencies currently participating in this program include:
 - American Medical Response – Rancho Cucamonga
 - American Medical Response – Redlands
 - American Medical Response – Victorville
 - Baker Ambulance Service
 - Barstow Fire Department
 - Big Bear City Fire Department
 - Big Bear Lake Fire Department
 - Desert Ambulance
 - Morongo Basin Ambulance
 - Morongo Valley Fire Department
 - Needles Ambulance Service
 - Olancho Fire Department
 - Running Springs Fire Department

- San Bernardino City Fire Department
- San Manuel Fire Department
- Sierra LifeFlight
- Symons Emergency Specialists

10. Executive Director meets regularly with Healthcare Solutions to ensure progress.
11. Agency staff attended bi-monthly Medical Advisory Committee meetings.
12. Agency staff regularly reviewed system-wide response time data
13. San Bernardino and Mono County providers completed the Zofran Trial study. ICEMA is currently in the process of adding Zofran to its optional scope. Providers interested in participating will need to apply for specialty program approval.

COMPONENT 7- PUBLIC INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

1. Agency staff updated website regularly to keep constituents apprised on current changes and information.

COMPONENT 8 - DISASTER RESPONSE

1. Agency staff attended various committee meetings on a regular basis with RDMHS, OES, San Bernardino County Bioterrorism and Response Planning. Effort has been put into many activities to support counties in their efforts to establish effective all hazards.
2. Agency staff met regularly with hospitals to assess future disaster needs.
3. Contractor conducted HICS training and equipment inspections throughout the year.
4. Agency staff reviewed and made extensive changes to the Emergency Operations Manual.
5. Agency staff developed a protocol in which the ICEMA Medical Director and the County Health Officer can authorize the use of EMT-Ps as vaccinators.
6. Agency assisted County Health Officers by planning for distribution of N95 masks for field providers and hospitals.



ANNOUNCEMENT

ICEMA has an opening for EMS Nurse. If your interested in applying or need more information, please contact Denice Wicker Stiles, Assistant Administrator at (909) 388-5831. ❄

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

from the entire staff at ICEMA

ICEMA HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

December 21st—23rd, 2009

8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

CLOSED

December 24th & 25th, 2009

in observance of the Christmas Holiday

December 28th—30th, 2009

8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

CLOSED

December 31st, 2009 & January 1st, 2010

in observance of the New Year



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